**Sample Family Letter: MASC 2025 Convention**

 ***(ADVISORS: Copy this and insert it into your letter to parents/guardians along with additional information for your particular school or region. MASC recommends that you use your school letterhead and include the student emergency form and delegate contract. Information that should be personalized is in red and highlighted in yellow.)***

The 2025 Convention of the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) promises to be a wonderful experience for student leaders from all over the state. Using the Roland E. Powell Convention Center (4011 Coastal Highway), the MASC Convention begins **after dinner** the evening of **Tuesday, March 11, 2025, andconcludes at 11:45 a.m., on Thursday, March 13, 2025.**

Delegations can plan to arrive any time after 4:00 p.m. when the **hotel** on-site check-in will open. The **convention** on-site check-in will also start at 4:00 p.m. and continue until 6:30 p.m. The convention program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Convention Center. Note – delegations may wish to stop for dinner on their way to the event or may choose to arrive earlier, check into their hotel, and walk to a close dinner location. On Thursday, delegation buses should plan on arriving at the convention center or hotel between 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Many delegations order pizza from local businesses to put on the buses for lunch on the way home. Please note that delegations cannot eat in the convention center. MASC is working with hotels to have a holding place for luggage on Thursday as check-out time is before the convention program ends.

As a delegate to this convention, your child will participate in:

* Electing the 2025-2026 officers of the Maryland Association of Student Councils
* Listening to a nationally recognized motivational speaker – A’ric Jackson ([website](https://topyouthspeakers.com/speakers-topics/aric-jackson#:~:text=%E2%80%A2%20Founder%20of%20Generation%20Leadership,pursue%20their%20goals%20and%20dreams.))
* Exciting and meaningful peer-taught leadership workshops
* Taking stances on youth related bills from the Maryland General Assembly
* Legislative action during General Assemblies
* Supervised recreation each evening (including a dance, karaoke, photo booth, and other activities)
* Tons of networking with students from around the state!

**Housing Information:**

Students and their advisors will be staying at one of the hotels booked by their advisor: Aloft Ocean City, Doubletree by Hilton Ocean City Oceanfront, Hilton Suites Oceanfront Students will walk to the convention center (approximately a ten-minute walk. **MASC recommends a ratio of one advisor per ten students**. Advisors will help ensure that delegates abide by the provisions of the convention enumerated in the *Delegate Contract* and Convention House Rules.

*Housing assignments are up to the delegation advisor. They will assign students to rooms.*

**COST –** As with other organizations, there are two expenses:

* MASC Early Bird Registration: $265 per person (Dec. 1- Jan. 10) – must be paid by Feb. 7, 2025
* MASC Regular Registration: $285 per person (Jan. 11 – Feb. 7, 2025)
* Hotel: Depending on your hotel, include the cost per student here (two, three, four, five, or six per room)
* Transportation, regional shirts, Tuesday dinner (fast food on way to Ocean City or dinner in Ocean City), and other school/regional expenses should be listed here.
* Spending money for MASC merchandise (polo, quarter zip, sweatshirt/pants, tote bag, tee shirt, etc.) plus the Convention Center concession stand open each evening during recreation.

*Individual schools or regions will need to provide their Maryland Sales Tax Exemption information to the hotel.  Local taxes will apply.****Rates listed below include the local tax, but not Maryland Sales Tax*** *assuming all schools will submit the Maryland State Tax Exempt information.*

**Aloft Ocean City**: 4501 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City, MD 21842

​$124.95/night: Double Queen Rooms with pullout sofa- max 6 per room

**Doubletree by Hilton, Ocean City Oceanfront**: 3301 Atlantic Avenue, Ocean City, MD 21842

​$145.95/night: Oceanfront- Double Queen Rooms with pullout sofa- max 6 per room

​$130.20/night: Ocean View-Double Queen Rooms- max 4 per room

**Hilton Suites Oceanfront**: 3200 North Baltimore Avenue, Ocean City, MD 21841

​$147.00/night: Double Queen Rooms with pullout sofa- max 6 per room

Check-in for all hotels is 4:00 PM on Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

Check-out for all hotels is 11:00 AM on Thursday, March 13, 2025.

*Arrangements may be made to hold luggage for a region/school after 11:00 AM- more details coming*

**Program Details:**

Convention registration cost includes:

• Tuesday evening opening program

• National motivational speaker

• Convention tee-shirt

• Recreation both nights

• Snacks during recreation

• Student-led workshops

• Wednesday breakfast, lunch, dinner

• Thursday breakfast

Your child may want to bring extra money to buy MASC merchandise (polo shirt, quarter-zip, sweatshirt/pants, tee shirts, tote bag) during recreation times plus the Convention Center concession stand is open during recreation both evenings.

Students are asked to dress casually during the conference and it must align with their school dress code. MASC is recommending wearing a school spirit shirt on Tuesday, a regional shirt on Wednesday, and the convention tee-shirt on Thursday. Additionally, students should pack lightly as they will be sharing a room. Remember, students are representing your school!

**Hotel Details:**

School advisors will be responsible for students when they are at the hotel. It is about a ten-minute walk from the hotel to the Convention Center. The staff at the convention center is working with the authorities in Ocean City to have crossing guards (if you are at the Doubletree or Hilton Suites) and to operate the Ocean City public bus (free for us) in a hotel/Convention Center loop during the times when our students are passing.

An emergency plan for the Convention Center is included in the MASC convention app and the hotels have their emergency plans posted in all rooms.

Students may bring cell phones to the conference. Our conference “app” should be saved to the cell phone home (directions will be shared). For emergencies, it is recommended that parents have the cell phone number of the school or regional advisor.

*Every student/parent will need to complete and sign the MASC Participant Emergency Information Form, MASC Delegate Contract, and perhaps additional forms required by your child’s school/district for bringing medications and transportation to and from this event.*

*All forms must be completed and then returned to school.*

*Do not email or mail any forms other than the school’s signed registration invoice.*

**We look forward to your child’s participation as a delegate to the 2025 MASC Convention!**